

What Discipleship Is and Isn't - Panel

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Summary

This video conversation revolves around the concept of discipleship and its true essence. Jared emphasizes that discipleship is not just a momentary event but a continuous movement toward spiritual growth. It's not merely about outward behavior but about beholding and treasuring Christ, which naturally transforms behavior. Discipleship is not just assimilation into church activities but the replication of making disciples. The discussion highlights the importance of focusing on the heart rather than just external actions and encouraging students to share their faith as part of their spiritual growth journey. The conversation acknowledges the messiness of the discipleship process, even for Jesus and his disciples, and encourages youth leaders to view challenges as opportunities for teaching moments.

Main Points

#1 - Discipleship: A Movement, Not a Moment

This point discusses the first statement, 'it's not a moment, it's a movement.' Discipleship should not be reduced to singular spiritual moments, such as raising hands during a salvation prayer or emotional experiences. Instead, it's a continuous journey of moving a person from unbelief to belief in the gospel and becoming more like Christ (sanctification). Success in discipleship should not be measured by momentary events but by the ongoing process of spiritual growth.

#2 - Beholding Christ, Not Just Behaving

The second statement, 'it's not behaving, it's beholding,' addresses the tendency to focus on outward behavior rather than the heart. The focus should be on treasuring and beholding Christ, which will naturally transform

behavior. Merely trying to behave like Christ through willpower misses the heart of discipleship. We must offer students something better (Christ) rather than just prohibiting bad behavior.

#3 - Replication, Not Just Assimilation

The third statement, 'it's not assimilation, it's replication,' challenges the assumption that discipleship is merely about getting students involved in church activities. True discipleship involves equipping believers to be spiritual conduits, making disciples themselves. The ultimate sign of fruitful discipleship is when the disciple replicates the process by reaching and discipling others. Mission and replication are at the heart of Christianity, not just consuming knowledge.

#4 - The Messiness of Discipleship

The discipleship process is messy. It was even for Jesus and his disciples. Youth leaders need to view moments of drama or misbehavior as opportunities for teaching and discipleship rather than just problems to fix. The greatest fruit of Jesus' work with his disciples happened after his ascension. Sometimes leaders may sow seeds without seeing the harvest, while at other times, they reap what others have sown.

Next Steps

- Focus on moving students through a journey of spiritual growth rather than just looking for momentary spiritual experiences.
- Teach students to treasure and behold Christ, which will naturally transform their behavior.
- Encourage students to share their faith and make disciples, as this is a crucial part of their spiritual growth and the heart of Christianity.
- View challenges and misbehavior as opportunities for teaching moments rather than just problems to fix.
- Persevere in discipleship, even when the fruit is not immediately visible, as the greatest impact may come later or through the work of others.

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